



Vol 22 Issue 2

Nevada Air National Guard

February 2012

Legendary Tuskegee Airmen Land at Nevada Air Guard Base

RENO—There hadn't been this much hubbub over movie stars appearing in *The Biggest Little City in the World* since Marilyn Monroe and Clark Gable arrived here to begin filming "The Misfits" in 1961.

Several true stars of the movie "Red Tails" – three World War II-era Tuskegee Airmen who were among the real-life servicemen the movie was based upon – drew an overflow crowd to the auditorium at the Nevada Air National Guard base in January for a meet-and-greet event that coincided with the opening of the movie inspired by the 1940s African-American aviators. More than 500 people attended the event that had to be split into two sessions due to the excessive turnout.

Our Story, Inc. and the Nevada National Guard hosted the event that featured remarks by retired Senior Master Sgt. George Porter, retired Chief Master Sgt. Lenard Yates and retired Tech. Sgt. Boyd Taylor. The three are members of the George S. "Spanky" Roberts Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen in Sacramento. The Tuskegee Airmen are renowned for



Chief Master Sgt. (ret) Lenard Yates talks to the crowd during a recent visit by living members of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen. Yates and three other Tuskegee Airmen came to the Nevada Air Guard base to talk about their experiences and help promote the movie, Red Tails, which is based on their legendary experiences in World War II (Photo by Tech Sgt. Eric Ritter).

their World War II exploits and were the first African-American aviators in the U.S. military. More than 200 proud Tuskegee Airmen are still alive nearly seven decades after Axis powers surrendered in 1945.

Kenneth Dalton, the founder and

president of Our Story, Inc., said he admired the Tuskegee Airmen who had to overcome racism just to fight on behalf of the country during World War II. Dalton helped set up the meet-and-greet in order to see TUSKEGEE, Page 4

In this issue:

Cover Stories: Tuskegee Airmen; NV National Guard Responds to Fire

Page 2: Commanders Corner

Page 3: Tuskegee Cont

Page 4: National Guard in the Community

Page 5: Forums, News and Notes

Page 6: Forums, Cont

Page 7: National Guard News

Page 8: 152nd Historian's Tuskegee Perspective

Nevada National Guard Responds to Washoe Drive Fire

Nevada Gov Brian Sandoval addresses members of the Nevada National Guard who were preparing to go to the areas hit by last month's Washoe Drive fire. Fifty Soldiers and Airmen of the Nevada National were activated to primarily act as security to affected neighborhoods to ensure the 11-mile fire-stricken corridor remained safe. The fire officially burned almost 4,000 acres and destroyed over 20 homes. The fire was caused by the improper disposal of fireplace ashes (photo by Tech Sgt Eric Ritter)



Commander's Corner

*Col. Michael Williams,
Commander, 152nd Airlift Wing*

First I want to congratulate all of you on receiving the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award from 15 September 2009 to 14 September 2011. There are many great units competing for this award and the fact that we were selected is recognition of all the hard you do.

At the end of January Secretary Panetta released the Defense Budget Priorities and choices. This document is a PLAN and I want to stress that it is a plan that outlines how the Department Of Defense (DOD) is planning to maintain our nations global security. With the dwindling budget, the DOD is forced to restructure to meet interest in multiple regions , in simple terms, we will not be able to conduct full scale operations in multiple regions .

How does the Plan effect the Nevada Air National Guard? I don't know. The DOD Plan is looking at the military as a

whole and outlines areas that they expect to save money and still meet the new strategic direction. Details of the plan will be released in the future, I don't know what is behind the curtain . We cannot get caught up in speculating what the Department of the Air force will do, on February 13, 2012 the President will submit his FY 13 budget request to Congress and then each service will provide specifics on how they will manage their respective budgets. Regardless of what is announced , Good , Bad, or Ugly Congress will make the final approval for the budget. This process , for the most part is beyond our sphere of control.

Here is what we have 100 percent control of, our character. We need to focus on what we do best, I need all of you to be the best at your craft and continue to develop ready airman. Don't get frustrated over things we have no control of. Do focus on doing your job safely and better than anybody else.

To Quote General Burks " In the past, the Nevada Air National Guard has faced challenges not unlike the fiscal ones we see



today, but has always weathered the storm and come out ahead. We've always managed to make the best of the situation. It's one of the hallmarks of the Nevada Guard and the High Rollers. I believe our future is bright." Our future is bright and our goal is to meet mission requirements and provide the young Airman the same opportunity we have had.

Governor

Brian Sandoval

The Adjutant General

Brig. Gen. Bill Burks

152nd AW Public Affairs Officer

1st Lt. Jason Yuhasz

Layout/Editor

Tech Sgt. Eric Ritter

Staff Writers/Photographers

Master Sgt. Suzanne Connell

Master Sgt. Gloria Odion

Tech Sgt. Eric Ritter

Tech Sgt. Rebecca Palmer

Contributors

Unit Public Affairs Representatives

Pancake Benefit for Baby Alyse

February guard drill (Sat. 11th) from 7am-10am

Where: New Fire House (BLDG. 800)

Cost: FREE: - Donations will be accepted at the door

To Benefit: 13-month-old, Alyse Fitts, was diagnosed with Leukemia Sept. 20th, 2011. Alyse is currently in treatment including regular Chemotherapy at Oakland Children's Hospital. Alyse is the daughter of one of our Guardsmen Airman 1st Class Jared Fitts who is currently in training in Little Rock. Her mother, Tiffany, has lost nearly ALL sources of income as she continues to stay by Alyse's side in the Bay Area.

Contributions to the financial hardships of saving our baby girl's life are GREATLY appreciated!

All proceeds will be donated to "Crusade For Alyse"

High Roller News

In accordance with Department of Defense Instruction 5120.4, the High Roller News is an authorized, unofficial publication of the Nevada National Guard. Content is not necessarily the official view of, nor is it endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense, the Nevada National Guard or the state of Nevada.

High Roller News is published monthly for all current members of the Nevada Air National Guard, civilian employees, National Guard retirees and government leaders in the state of Nevada. High Roller News is distributed electronically through all Public Affairs channels for information distribution to include the Nevada Air National Guard Share-

point intranet page. Comments, Contributions and Letters to the editor must be signed and include the writer's full name and mailing or email address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. Other print and visual submissions of general interest to our diverse civilian employees, Nevada National Guard military members, retirees and families are invited and encouraged. Please send articles and photos with name, phone number, e-mail and complete mailing address and comments to:

High Roller News
152nd Airlift Wing Public Affairs Office
1776 National Guard Way
Reno, NV 89502

Or e-mail to 152aw.highroller@ang.af.mil
Publication of material is determined by available space and reader interest. The staff reserves the right to edit all material.



TUSKEGEE, cont.

to give younger generations the opportunity to hear the aviators' story.

"I sought a way to recognize African-Americans in northern Nevada," said Kenneth Dalton, the founder and president of Our Story, Inc. "There are so many stories of amazing people like the Tuskegee Airmen that haven't been recounted enough. These are the types of stories that must be shared, not forgotten."

Retired Senior Master Walter Suggs, also a Tuskegee Airman but from a later era, accompanied the World War II veterans from Sacramento.

"It's emotionally satisfying for me to see so many people come out and hear the history of these amazing men," Suggs said.

George Lucas, who became famous in the 1970s after directing "Star Wars" and "American Graffiti," served as the executive director of the movie that featured actor Cuba Gooding, Jr., as its marquee headliner. The movie ranked No. 2 at the national box office January 21-22 and grossed more than \$33 million through January.

"I could not believe that the man who directed 'Star Wars' and 'Indiana Jones' was

so interested in the Tuskegee Airmen story," Suggs said. "Lucas went to Hollywood and received no support to put the story on the big screen. But he overcame obstacles to make it happen -- reminiscent of the Tuskegee Airmen."

After brief introductions from Suggs and Dalton, the three original Tuskegee Airmen took time to share their insight with the crowd.

"No one knew about us," Porter said. "Even the government did not want us to succeed, but we would not let anyone fail."

The crowd uttered a synchronized "Amen" each time Porter made a point during his talk.

Before passing the microphone to his cohorts, Porter shared two thoughts he said no one should forget.

"Remember two words: respect and love," he said. "Respect and love your family and yourself."

Yates shared the highlights of his own career to impress upon the audience that, with enough dedication and persistence, anyone can do anything. Yates' active duty career spanned 30 years and he recorded more than 1,500 hours of flight time.

"Apply yourself and you can achieve anything you want because God is with

you," he said.

Taylor was the last of the trio to speak. He wanted everyone to know the underlying story of the Tuskegee Airmen is not about overcoming racism, but about making a difference.

"We are all citizens of these United States," he said. "When we joined the military during a time of segregation, few of us thought we could truly make a difference. But we succeeded with the support of those who saw our potential to accomplish great things."

The Tuskegee Airmen Chapter in Sacramento (the Sacramento chapter encompasses northern Nevada) has 69 members and continues to expand. Unbeknownst to many, anyone can join the chapter.

"All you need is a good mind and the desire to teach the history of the Tuskegee Airmen," Suggs said. "This is America's history we're sharing."

For information on the Tuskegee Airmen Sacramento Chapter, call (916) 768-0343 or (916) 723-9968.

The Las Vegas-based James Knighten Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen holds its meetings at Nellis Air Force Base. For information, write to bryane.jones@nellis.af.mil.

Defense Bill: Pay and TRICARE Fees Go Up

After weeks of wrangling over a provision dealing with detaining terrorism suspects, Congress finally sent the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012 to President Barack Obama for signature. This should mean troops will get their January 1, 2012 across the board military pay increase on time. In addition, the defense bill will peg any future increase in TRICARE Prime enrollment fees for military retirees to future retiree Cost-of-living-Adjustments (COLA).

Many to See BAH Increase in 2012

Due to an overall increase in the cost of housing, military Basic Allowance for Housing rates across the country increased an average of 2 percent over last year's rates. Some locations will see an increase of as much as 40 percent (Minot, ND). The national-average increase of 2 percent can be tied to several factors including: local costs for rent, utilities, housing shortages, and local economic pressures. Check out the 2012 BAH rates for your locality.

Beware of Bogus Free Credit Reports

Everyone has seen the commercials and advertisements stating that they can get their credit reports for free with just a few clicks of a mouse. However, beware that those offers are not everything that they claim to be. The Fair Credit Reporting Act requires the three consumer reporting companies -- Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion -- to provide consumers with a free annual copy of their credit score. The three companies have consolidated their efforts into one authorized website to allow consumers to effectively and efficiently manage their credit: www.annualcreditreport.com.

Other companies have created websites that look like the official www.annualcreditreport.com, but their incentives are laden with hidden fees. Military members or dependents that are having credit reporting issues should contact their local legal assistance office.

Servicemembers should consider placing active-duty fraud alerts on their credit report during a deployment. The alert requires businesses to contact the servicemember before issuing credit.

Servicemembers can use a personal representative to start or stop the alert, which remains on the credit report for one year unless it is removed sooner. Servicemembers should contact one of the three consumer reporting agencies to place an active-duty fraud alert: Equifax at 1-800-525-6285 or equifax.com; Experian at 1-888-397-3742 or experian.com; or TransUnion at 1-800-680-7289 or transunion.com.

Nevada Air National Guard in the Community

Congressman Amodei Signs ESGR Statement of Support

*By Nevada National Guard
Joint Force Headquarters, Public Affairs*

Congressman Mark Amodei visited the Nevada National Guard Military Family Service Center last month to endorse the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve program in the Silver State. With his signature, Amodei joins local employers in recognizing the service members of the National Guard and Reserve and their tremendous contributions to the community. The facility is located at 685 East Plumb

Lane in Reno.

"(Hiring Guard members) makes good business sense. These are disciplined, skilled workers who display pride, leadership, responsibility and professionalism in what they do," said Jenetah Avant, the program support manager for the state ESGR program. "We appreciate the support Congressman Amodei has already given us and demonstrated again."

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense organization that promotes cooperation and

understanding between Reserve components and their civilian employers to assist resolving conflicts that may arise from one's military commitment. The organization recognizes the critical role civilian employers play in the defense of the nation by complying with existing employment laws protecting the rights of workers who serve in the Guard and Reserve components.

If you or someone you know from the Nevada Air National Guard is positively involved with local community activities, the Public Affairs Office would like to know. Please send the info to 152aw.highroller@ang.af.mil



Looking for a job or career advice? Online resources are available for you 24 hours a week, seven days a week at <https://h2h.jobs> This site is free for employers, all Guardsmen, Reservists and Veterans.



Nevada Congressman Mark Amodei (2nd from left) poses with ESGR staff members after signing his pledge of support to help Guard members in local workforce (photo by 1st Lt. Jason Yuhasz)

Women's Veterans Forum

"Charting a Course for Success"

FRIDAY MAY 11TH 10:30-4pm

CAPRI BALLROOM, PEPPERMILL RESORT, RENO, NV

*Employment Opportunities *Education Information

*VA Benefits and Enrollment *National Motivational speaker

*Luncheon at Noon

*Networking Time

*Business Attire

Open and Free to the Public; Women Veterans all ages, Active Duty, Guard, Reserve

Registration Requested: VASNHCS web, zola.ferguson@va.gov,

SPONSORS:, VA REGIONAL OFFICE, RENO VETS CENTER, NEVADA STATE OFFICE OF VETERANS

Nevada Air Guard Represents at Reno MLK Day event



Oliver Miller, left, Tiffany Miller, Alexia Emmermann and John Brownell attended Northern Nevada Black Cultural Awareness Society's 24th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Dinner Celebration Monday Jan. 16, 2012 at the Peppermill to show their support of MLK's vision of peace.

Unit Forums, News and Notes

Exceptional Promotion Program for 2012

Suspense for packages to State CCM has been moved to April 20th and the selection board will be held on May 5th. This change is due to the Leader Symposium and Governor's Military Ball over the April UTA in Las Vegas.

This program will provide a promotion opportunity for two exceptional Nevada Air National Guard members and is open to traditional members holding the rank of Master Sergeant and Senior Master Sergeant. There will be a competitive process for selection based on core competencies and leadership. Reference the attached EPP Guidelines and Checklist, as well as ANGI 36-2502 (Promotion of Airmen), Chapter 3.5. All interested members must discuss and coordinate this program with their supervisor and commander while using these documents to involve them in the application process. All packages must first be processed through the 152 FSS. Contact Chief Master Sgt Rick Scurry for the details.

Send Your Kid to Space Camp

The Military Child Education Coalition is accepting applications for the Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial Space Camp Scholarship. The scholarship covers full tuition including round trip transportation from the student's home base to Space Camp, meals, lodging and program materials.

Student applicants must be: (1) the child of a military member on active duty or mobilized Guard or Reserve, (2) the child of a military member who died while on active duty or mobilized Guard or Reserve, (3) enrolled in grades six through nine. Applications are available online. For more information about Space Camp, visit the Space Camp website at www.spacecamp.com.

For more military family resources, visit the Military.com Spouse Center.

SANGA Election Time

As a reminder, ALL SANGA memberships expired this past December. To vote or be a board member, you must have a current membership. All a membership costs is \$5 per year and can be purchased from any bartender at SANGA.

Contact Chief MSgt Robert L. Taulman for more info, 775-843-9684.

Special Olympics Polar Plunge
2012 iPolar Plunge to raise proceeds and awareness for the Special Olympics.

Las Vegas iPlunge, Feb 18
S. Lake Tahoe iPlunge, March 17
Go to www.iplungeNV.com for more information.

February UTA Menu

Saturday

Peppered Steak
Roast Turkey
Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy
Steamed Rice
Peas
Carrots
Chicken Noodle Soup
Asst. Desserts

SHORT ORDER

** Tuna Melt
Hamburger
Cheeseburger
Chicken Wraps
Chili
Nachos
French Fries
Onion Rings

Sunday

Jambalaya
Oven Fried Chicken
Fried Okra
Corn
Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy
Sweet Potato Fries
Chicken Noodle Soup
Asst. Desserts

SHORT ORDER

** Tuna Melt
Hamburger
Cheeseburger
Chicken Wraps
Chili
Nachos
French Fries
Onion Rings

IF YOU ARE ACTIVE GUARD RESERVE (AGR), ON ANY KIND OF ORDERS (ANNUAL TRAINING, STATE ACTIVE DUTY, MPA, TITLE 10), OR AN OFFICER YOU MUST PAY, \$4.25

Nevada Chapter of the Enlisted Association
of the National Guard of the United States

NVEANGUS



Cordially Invites you to the

STATE CAUCUS

Social, Business, followed by Dinner
Silent Auction & iPad2 raffle

FRIDAY MARCH 30TH, 2012 @ SANGA 5PM

Unit Forums, News and Notes, Cont.

NV Project Looking to Continue to Deliver a Little Bit of Home

The mission of the NV Citizens helping Soldiers Project (NV Project) is to provide care pack-ages to deployed NV service men and women; create a forum for NV Citizens and Businesses to volunteer and provide supplies; and provide outreach to NV K-12 schools to promote patriotism and increase awareness of the challenges in education in other parts of the world.

During NV Energy's (NVE) October Make a Difference Month, NVE employee and the mother of a deployed NV Airman, Melissa Fritz, Major Accounts Executive, organized a "Support Our Troops" supply drive. The employee volunteers of NVE, along with Van Gorder Elementary and business partners from Circus Circus, Starbucks, Nevada Magazine and Waste Management, stepped up to the plate and donated enough supplies to send 90 care pack-ages overseas! The NV Project was born out of this success, and will create a tradition of NV Citizens, Businesses and Schools Supporting Deployed NV Service Men and Women. The NVE Volunteer Council provided funding for 60 of those packages to be mailed to NV Service Men and Women in Afghanistan during the months of November and December. The NV Project plans to continue collecting items and sending care packages to the men and women and are looking forward to working with more schools and businesses.

The next steps for the NV Project are to adopt NV military units deploying in 2012, continue building NV boxes, partner with Silver Lake Elementary and other interested schools and raise funds for postage.

If you're interested in donating items or doing an item drive on behalf of the NV Project at your school or company for the men and women serving overseas, please call 775-834-5234 for details.

The NV Project is just one of the many organizations showing their support and appreciation for the Nevada military. More information will be coming soon on the large variety of ways you can contribute.

Vets4Warriors Support Line

The Vets4Warriors peer support line, 1-855-838-8255 (1-855-VET-TALK), provides easy access to supportive, non-attributional conversations with trained veteran peers representing all branches of the military. This team of veteran peers has immediate access to behavioral health clinicians to respond to potentially emergent issues and can offer referrals to local community services, military veteran centers, and military healthcare providers based upon the needs of the Service Member. A variety of services will be provided to include non-clinical (legal, financial) and referrals for clinical services (substance abuse, behavioral health).

This program is a component of a larger effort to promote individual resilience, risk reduction, and coping skills through peer support and referrals to community based services. Peer counseling is an effective method to acculturate these self-development skills without the potential stigma that some Service Members may associate with help-seeking behavior.

The program also improves awareness and access to local resources that are relevant to the issues communicated by the Service Member while the utilization data can help share and refine current support programs.

Vets4Warriors Website: www.vets4warriors.com

Finance Forum

BAH Re-certifications

It is time once again to recertify your BAH. If your social security number ends in a 2, you are due to recertify in February. Please stop by the Finance Office to accomplish this. Re-certifying only takes a few minutes and non-compliance may result in loss of pay.

Two mass BAH recertification times have been added for Saturday and Sunday of drill. Stop by the Finance classroom between the hours of 0900-1000 and 1400-1500, on either day, for re-certification.

DTS

When filing your DTS voucher, do not forget to upload a signed copy of your AROWS ST or AT orders. Also, please be sure to upload a copy of your airline itinerary that was emailed to you from SATO. Even though the airfare was booked in DTS, it does not mean that a receipt is not needed. These are the two main reasons for returned vouchers in DTS.

Need to Create a CBA routing list in DTS? Click on the following link to the SharePoint for step-by-step, screen shot directions!

<http://131.60.64.30/AW/Finance/Defense%20Travel%20System/ADDING%20A%20CBA%20ROUTING%20LIST%20TO%20A%20TRAVEL%20%20AUTHORIZATION.pdf>

MYPAY

Locked out of MyPay and need your W-2? Visit your local Finance Office to have your PIN reset OR use your CAC to sign in! That's right! MyPay is now CAC enabled. CAC login works even when it's been over thirty days since you last signed into MyPay or you've locked your account by entering the incorrect password too many times!

Help Support EANGUS--Get a Chance to Win an iPad 2

NVEANGUS will be raffling 1 iPad 2 16GB with built-in Wi-Fi – Black/White. Winner does not have to be present to win. Location of drawing will be announced in SANGA during the State Caucus.

Raffle tickets will be sold until March 20th. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.

Contact SSgt Escobar (788-8712) or SSgt Sosa (887-7379) for more information.

"The Nevada EANGUS current board members reserve all rights and specifications to contest rules and regulations."

National Guard News

Air Force leaders publish new strategy document

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz released the 'Air Force Priorities for a New Strategy with Constrained Budgets' white paper Feb 1.

"The Air Force has made the hard choices to closely align with the new strategic guidance in our FY13 budget submission by trading size for quality," the leaders stated. "We will be a smaller but superb force that maintains the agility, flexibility, and readiness to engage a full range of contingencies and threats."

The Air Force strategy document provides an overview of the way forward for the present and future Air Force. The following areas are outlined in the document:

The Air Force new strategy; force structure; readiness; modernization; more disciplined use of Defense dollars; and taking care of people.

"It is our intent, indeed our obligation, to the American people and our Airmen to remain the world's finest Air Force in the years and decades to come," Donley and Schwartz penned. "Innovative and adaptable, America's Air Force will continue to meet emerging challenges and ensure the security of the Nation and its bright future."

Danger Pay Now Calculated by the Day

WASHINGTON -- Starting this month, the Defense Department will calculate imminent-danger pay by the day rather than the month, a cost-cutting move the department estimated last year could save \$30 million annually.

Up to now, servicemembers received a full month's imminent-danger pay -- \$225 -- for spending even a single day in designated hazardous areas, which range from war zones such as Afghanistan to out-of-the-way spots like Montenegro.

But beginning Feb. 1, they'll get the extra pay only for days they're actually present in the danger zones. The prorated daily amount works out to \$7.50.

"This is a more targeted way of handling that pay," Pentagon spokesman Capt. John Kirby said Thursday.

The exception is for troops exposed to hostile fire.

"If you take fire, you get the full \$225," regardless of time spent in the area, said DoD spokeswoman Eileen Lainez.

The change, signed into law by President Barack Obama on Dec. 31 as part of the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act, should have little effect on troops on long-term deployments in hazardous areas. But it could reduce the paychecks of officers making short visits to designated locations or Sailors passing through them, Lainez said.

Pentagon officials said affected servicemembers should begin seeing the difference in their paychecks on Feb. 15.

Your Attention to Air Guard Retention

*By Master Sgt. John Baker,
Recruiting and Retention*

How difficult can recruiting be? Recruiting is easy in the Air National Guard, all you do is give away promotional items and the people come to you. Recruiting is so easy, even a monkey can do it.

These are a few statements that Recruiters face every day. The Recruiting and Retention office does a lot more than most people think they do. Recruiting is not about giving away a few free items and sitting next to the phone to wait for the next new airman to call. The Recruiting and Retention team go to community events, in the local high schools and colleges, and are active in our high school JROTCs in order to find motivated, qualified applicants.

In FY11, the team participated in forty-six events of which the majority took place after business hours, on weekends and holidays. These events include the annual Flag Day Ceremony held in Carson City, Star Spangled Sparks, and eleven JROTC award ceremonies. Through the continuous efforts and tireless hours of our team, we

enlisted ninety-seven new airmen into the Nevada Air National Guard.

With the new Fiscal Year brings more events. So far we have forty-four events scheduled, ten of which have already been completed. Our newest event is the Reno Bighorns Military and Veteran Appreciation Night on February 10, 2012. This event is an opportunity to recognize our military members and veterans who have served within our community.

There are many upcoming events that provide great opportunities for our fellow airmen to get into the community and show people who and what the Nevada Air National Guard is. Volunteering is not just a great bullet on your EPR/ Performance Feedback; it is a rewarding way to show your pride in being a part of this great organization.

If you are interested in volunteering for future events, just contact your favorite recruiter.

Tech Sgt. Miller 788-4547, Tech Sgt. Muniz 788-4544,

Tech Sgt. Glynn 788-4546, Tech Sgt. Hampton 788-4545

We also want to thank all of you for being a part of our Air Guard Family! It is important to feel as if you belong and make a difference. Every day you slip into your uniform we should tell ourselves "I Make a difference!" Less than 1% of the US population is currently serving in our military. It is important you know those facts and that you make a difference and we thank you!

You are the reason the Nevada Air Guard is in existence. Without you who knows what kind of trouble the State or Nation could be in. Our roots as Guardsmen date back to 1636. Without women and men like you, we would have no United States of America. So thank you, for your service!

For those of you who are utilizing you post 9-11 GI Bill. Did you know if you had a kicker prior to utilizing your benefit, can carry that over? Yes! You can now carry over your MGIB kicker if you qualified for it prior to applying for the Post-911 GI Bill. Unfortunately if you wish to transfer the benefit to a child or spouse it will not carry-over.

For more information about GI Bill benefits, call Master Sgt John Baker, 788-4543.

The Tuskegee Airman: Our 152nd Historian Perspective

*By Master Sgt. (ret) Sam D. Macaluso,
the Ghost Writer in the Sky*

On January 20th, I was in the audience when three surviving Tuskegee Airmen were introduced. It was a very moving and emotional experience for me seeing these elderly African-American heroes who fought two wars; World War II against the Nazis and against a racist America who saw African Americans as not on a par with whites. I'm writing this article for those of you who could not be there and listen to them talk about their experiences. This is a brief history of the Tuskegee Airmen:

During World War II, the U.S. military was racially segregated. Reflecting American society and law at the time, most African American soldiers and sailors were restricted to labor battalions and other support positions. An experiment in the U.S. Army Air Forces, however, showed that given equal opportunity and training, African Americans could fly in, command and support combat units as well as anyone. The USAAF's black fliers, the so-called "Tuskegee Airmen," served with distinction in combat and directly contributed to the eventual integration of the U.S. armed services, with the U.S. Air Force leading the way. Tuskegee Institute, a black college founded in Alabama in 1881 by Booker T. Washington, participated in the Roosevelt administration's pilot training program. Tuskegee graduated its first civilian licensed pilots in May 1940 and was the only source of African American military pilots in WWII.

In March 1941 the Air Corps announced the formation of its first-ever African American combat unit, the 99th Pursuit (later Fighter) Squadron. Reflecting contemporary American custom and War Department policy, Tuskegee's African American aviators remained segregated in an all-black organization. The unit was to include 47 officers and 429 enlisted men; ground crews were to train at Chanute Army Air Field, Ill., while pilots trained at Tuskegee. Primary flight training took place in Tuskegee Institute's Division of Aeronautics, with beginning flying lessons at the school's Moton Field. Advanced training and transition to military aircraft were conducted at Tuskegee Army Air

Field, which was officially established on July 23, 1941.

The U.S. Army Air Force's experimental flying unit, being rigidly segregated, required an African American leader. Capt. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. was chosen to lead the outfit because he was one of only two African American line officers in the Army -- the other was his father. Capt. Davis was a West Point graduate whose leadership skills and personal strength in overcoming racism helped make him an effective combat leader. He would eventually become the U.S. Air Force's first African American general. Flying P-40 Warhawks, the 99th first saw combat on June 2, 1943, as the Allies secured the Italian island of Pantellaria. The unit scored its first aerial victory against the Luftwaffe on July 2 when Lt. Charles B. Hall shot down a Focke Wulf Fw 190 on his eighth mission. The unit's first losses occurred the same day as Lts. Sherman White and James McCullin were killed.

While the 99th Fighter Squadron made its mark in combat, Benjamin Davis had been sent back to the United States to take command of the 332nd Fighter Group, which absorbed the 99th into an all-black group of four squadrons. They left their P-40s and P-39s in favor of the robust P-47 Thunderbolt, and later the sleek P-51 Mustang. Davis, now a colonel, returned to lead the group. He was known as a strict disciplinarian and urged his men to prove themselves in combat as the best reply to racism.

The 332nd Fighter Group flew 179 bomber escort missions from June 1944 through the end of the war. The Tuskegee Airmen proved especially valuable in this role. While on escort missions, Davis' airmen performed with great skill and courage, on one occasion shooting down 13 German fighters. But despite its success, the 332nd was often outnumbered. On one mission, Davis' 39 aircraft attacked more than 100 German fighters, shooting down five and for the loss of one and earning Davis the Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery and leadership.

Tuskegee's airmen faced the best the Luftwaffe had, including the first jet fighters. On March 24, 1945,

as the 332nd became one of the first Italy-based fighter unit to escort all B-17s all the way to Berlin and back, they met 25 German Me 262 jets. In the ensuing combat, three jets fell and the 332nd lost only one P-51. Significantly, the 332nd had completed the full 1,600-mile mission, for which it earned the Distinguished Unit Citation.

When the war in Europe ended, the 332nd Fighter Group had shot down 112 enemy aircraft and destroyed another 150 on the ground. Also, they knocked out more than 600 railroad cars, and sank one destroyer and 40 boats and barges. Their losses included approximately 150 killed in combat or in accidents. During the war, Tuskegee had trained 992 pilots and sent 450 overseas. By any measure, the Tuskegee experiment was a resounding success.

It wasn't until 1948 that by Executive Order of President Harry Truman that the military was to be fully integrated and that there was no more color barrier, no more black and white, just red, white and blue. As an historian it's days like this that make me proud to be an American and in the U.S. Air Force. "Red Tails" is a George Lucas movie based on actual events described here; it's worth seeing.



Tuskegee Airman, Senior Master Sgt. (ret) George "Spanky" Porter. (Photo by Tech Sgt Eric Ritter)